

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Program

2011 DoD/VA Annual Suicide Prevention Conference -

Tailoring Awareness and Prevention Education

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Ineffective Prevention Training

Feedback from previous training:

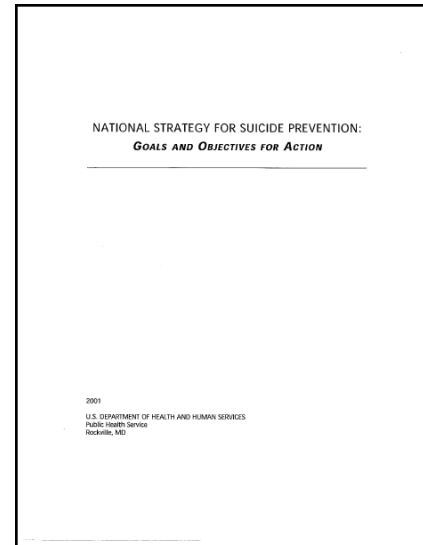
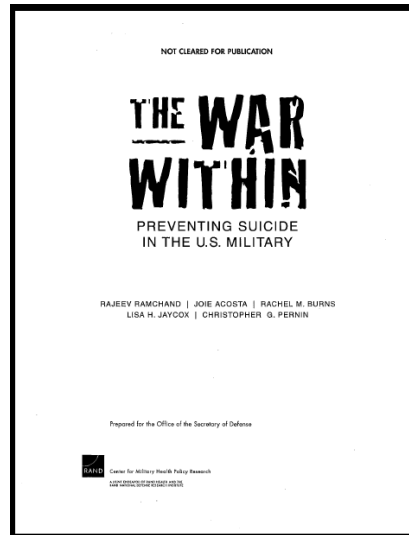
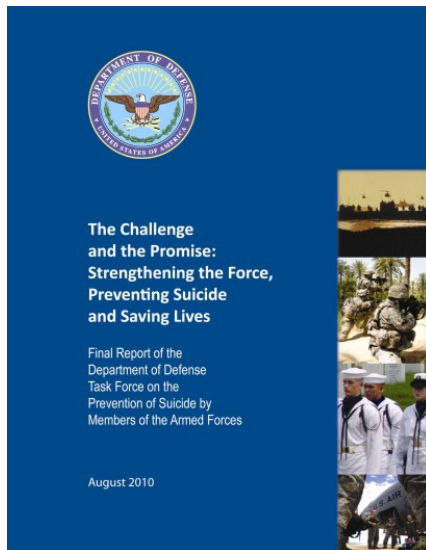
“It’s boring.”

“Suicide prevention training is a joke.”

“It’s a check in the box, then I forget it all.”



Training is a Must





Professional Training Consultation



“Include Marines in ALL phases of development”





Marine Input

“Use Marine trainers”

“No PowerPoint or learning objective lists”

“Use realistic language”

“Use frontline supervisor approach”

“No one-way lectures”

“The trainer should give a personal story”



Training Development Team

- Senior leadership
- Strategic communication consultant
- USMC officer
- USMC senior enlisted advisor
- Target audience members
- Active duty psychologist
- Training Analyst



Peer or Frontline Supervisor Trainers

- Executive Force Preservation Board
- NCOs request leading role
 - “Just give us the right tools”
- Goal: Reduce suicide among junior Marines
- Self-sustaining regional master training teams



Focus Groups

- Target audience members
- Cost-effective
- Consistent focus group membership
- Marines make good focus groups members



“No PowerPoint”

- Dramatic movie
 - Engaging
 - Visual learning
 - Overwhelms impulse to ignore subject
- Discussion format



Feedback on Video

- More information, more criticism
- “Jarhead” and “Full Metal Jacket”
- Harsh language
- Trainer language
 - Topical guidelines and skeleton script *available*
 - Trainer speaks in their own voice



Trainer Self-Disclosure

- Trainers give personal examples
 - Personal experience with treatment
 - Experience aiding a fellow Marine
- Normalization
- Encourages help-seeking



Documentary Testimony

- Survivors
 - Family members, unit members
- Unit members
- Leadership and chaplains
- Emotionally evocative



Difficult Sustainment

- Master training team fidelity
- Video “Re-run” effect
 - “Refresher training” excerpts and discussion
 - Replace documentary footage with archived footage
- Initial training / refresher confusion in field
- Constantly update science



Results

- “Outstanding,” “I learned something,” “I like the suicide training”
- Good reviews inadequate – effectiveness?
 - USUHS prelim results
 - MHAT data
 - Change in NCO suicide rate – NOT Jr. Marines



17th Annual

National Health Information AwardsSM

Best of Show Award Winners

Presented to

**Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps –
Suicide Prevention Program**

For

***Never Leave a Marine Behind –
NCO Suicide Prevention Training***

In the Category of

Total Health Information Program



Series Expansion

- Junior Marine (E1-E3) version
 - Same Sgt trainers
 - Reshoot dramatic video segments
 - Shorter format
- SNCO and officer modules
 - Trailer of Jr. Marine and NCO modules
 - Prevention basics
 - Evocative leader testimonials
 - Menu of discussion questions
- NCO II module



Way Ahead

- Civilian employee and family member training
- Integrate suicide prevention training
 - Replace with resiliency training
- Merge with existing resilience training
 - Eliminate redundancy
 - Reduce training fatigue in force



Questions

